(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps India has proposed to take to enable India face any nuclear attack from Pakistan; and

(d) what steps are being taken in the international arena to deter Pakistan from making nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports on Pakistan Prime Minister's interview to CNN on 29-1-1993 where he has, *inter-alia*, stated that it is true that Pakistan has acquired nuclear capability.

(c) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

(d) Our concern over the pursuit of a clandestine and weapons oriented programme and its implications for India's and regional security and stability have been conveyed to all concerned.

Indo-US relations in post cold-water Period

4133. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the new American Administration has a focus on Nuclear Proliferation and human rights issue;

(b) if so, whether Government are under pressure on the nuclear issue and human rights in Kashmir, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of study report of the RAND Corporation on Indian strategic thinking as sponsored by US Administration, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are also aware of the study reoprt of the Carnegie endowrment or the Indo-US relations in post cold-war period, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are discussing issues relating to disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and regional security bilaterally with the US Government. Our position on human rights and measures taken by Government to uphold human rights have also been communicated to the US Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. The US Department of Defence commissioned a study by the RAND Corporation on India's strategic thought. This study, authored by Dr. George Tanham, contends that there is an absence of strategic thinking and planning in India, stemming largely from India's historical and cultural development which has led to the development of a predominantly defensive strategic orientation.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's report on"India and America after the Cold War" observes that the end of the Cold War has created the opportunity for a significant improvement in rslations between the United States and India and offers a range of policy recommendations to both governments to overcome current irritants and deepen bilateral ties. *Inter alia*, these recommendations cover the areas of defence cooperation, nuclear restraint, missile development, economic reforms, human rights, narcotics control, Indo-Pak relations, India-China relations and the restructuring of the United Nations Security Concil.

Functioning of regional passport office, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

4134. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal time taken by the Regional Passport Office, Shastri

Bhawan, New Delhi to issue a passport to an applicant;

(b) whether one of the general reasons given by the Regional Passport office for the delay in issuing a passport is said to be the delay in receipt of police reports;

(c) whether any cases of loss of police reports after their receipt in the said office have also come to notice;

(d) whether there have been any complaints about the issuance of passports where the expiry dates maked on the passports happened to be earlier than the issuing dates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what procedure is adopted for setting right such passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) In the normal course it takes 60 to 65 days to issue a passport at Regional Office, Delhi.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No such complaint has come to Government's notice. It is, however, possible that clerical errors of this nature might occur, in which case the passport office concerned would correct the entry when the matter is brought to its attention.

Training for Arm and Ammunition in Afghanistan

4135. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of followers of Hizbul Mujahideens are receiving training in handling arms and ammunition in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government drew the attention of Afghanistan Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government; and

(d) steps being taken to assist the Afghan Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government are aware that Pakistan has arranged training facilities for Kashmiri militants in locations within Afghanistan.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Afghan authorities have stated categorically that the Afghan Government is not involved in any assistance being provided to Kashmiri militants.

Visit of British and US Home Secretaries

4136. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Home Secretary and US Home Secretary have visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during their visit; and

outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The British Home Secretary visited India recently.

(b) Detailed discussions were held on various bilateral issues such as combating terrorism, drug trafficking, follow up action on Extradition Treaty, Confiscation Agreement and immigration matters.

(c) Both sides agree to cooperate closely in combating terrorism and drug trafficking.